

Message Text

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73

ACTION AGR-20

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-20

IGA-02 L-03 OMB-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

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P 161948Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1956

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LA PAZ 0321

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, BL

SUBJ: WHEAT PROBLEM

REFS: (A) LA PAZ 173; (B) STATE 5614; (C) STATE 5919

1. ECONOFFS MET WITH MININD/COM IN FOLLOW-UP TO AMBASSADOR'S CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT BANZER (REF A). ECONOFF EXPLAINED SITUATION AS DESCRIBED REFS B AND C AND OFFERED MISSION'S ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING COMMERCIAL WHEAT SALES. MINISTER PEREDA COMPLAINED THAT IF USG HAD RESPONDED TO GOB REQUEST SOONER, GOB COULD HAVE MADE ARRANGMENTS TO COVER ITS REQUIREMENTS. ECONOFF CONCEDED WOULD HAVE BEEN HELPFUL HAD WE BEEN ABLE RESPOND SOONER BUT POINTED OUT THAT (1) ALMOST 50,000 M.T. PL-480 WHEAT STILL HAD NOT ENTERED BOLIVIA, (2) THESE SUPPLIES SHOULD LAST UNTIL MID-APRIL, 1974 WHICH SHOULD AFFORD GOB TIME TO MAKE OTHER ARRANGMENTS, AND (3) FLOUR WAS REAL SHORT-TERM PROBLEM AND POSSIBILITY OF IMPORTING FLOUR UNDER PL-480 HAD BEEN DISCARDED FROM TIME 1972 AGREEMENT HAD BEEN UNDER NEGOTIATION DUE TO PROHIBITIVELY HIGH U.S. PRICE DELIVERED TO BOLIVIA.

2. ECONOFF OFFERED HELP ARRANGE COMMERCIAL WHEAT SALES IN ANY WAY COULD. MININD/COM SAID WOULD APPRECIATE CURRENT WHEAT PRICE QUOTES FROM U.S., WHAT WHEAT AVAILABLE, WHERE AND WHEN. ECONOFF THEN ASKED WHETHER MINISTER BELIEVED IT WOULD BE USEFUL ARRANGE FOR A U.S. WHEAT

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MISSION TO VISIT BOLIVIA. SUGGESTED THAT MISSION MIGHT BE COMPOSED

OF ONE OFFICIAL FROM DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE PLUS REPRESENTATIVES
OF U.S. WHEAT BROKERS NOT REPRESENTED IN LA PAZ PLUS INTERESTED
BANKERS. MINISTER SAID SUCH MISSION MIGHT BE USEFUL.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: (A) THAT USDA OBTAIN PRICE QUOTES AND INITIAL
INDICATIONS OF QUANTITIES (OF UP TO 60,000 M.T.) AND LOCATIONS OF
WHEAT AVAILABLE FOR SHIPPING BY MARCH 1, 1974 AND CABLE ASAP. (B)
THAT DEPARTMENT CONSIDER ARRANGING WHEAT MISSION S DESCRIBED ABOVE.
STEDMAN

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Message Attributes

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